THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No separate study has been made, but it is well known that deforestation on steep hill slopes in high rainfall zones renders them vulnerable to erosion and landslides.

(d) The following steps are being taken:

(i) Greater vigilance is being exercised to prevent illicit fellings in forests.

(ii) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to check indiscriminate diversion of forest lands to non-forest use.

(iii) Afforestation effort inclusive of farm forestry is being intensified.

Smuggling of Uranium to Canada

1003. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the allegation raised by a member in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly regarding the smuggling of uranium from the mines of Lalitpur district to Canada.

(b) whether Government have received any report in this regard from the Uttar Pradesh Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Government has seen a news report to this effect.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Pak successful testing of Nuclear Triggers

1004. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Pakistan has successfully tested triggers for nuclear bomb;

(b) whether Government are also aware that in the last month of July, 1985 Pakistani scientists successfully tested the firing mechanism known as krypton producing a non-nuclear explosion; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what steps the Government of India propose to take to manufacture nuclear weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to reports about testing by Pakistan of trigger devices known as krytrons obtained from the USA.

(c) Government remains committed to the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. All developments having a bearing on the country's security are kept under constant review and Government will continue to do so with utmost vigil.

Pak smuggling of Electronic Triggers from USA

1005. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the veracity of the report that Pakistan has successfully tested U.S. made kryptons' electronic trigger;

(b) whether Government have also ascertained whether Pakistan have reportedly succeeded on experimenting a secret centrifuge plant at Kahuta for enriching uranium to weapon-grade level;

(c) whether it is a fact that these electronic triggers have been reportedly smuggled out of U.S.A. inspit of strict vigilance; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) Government has seen reports that Pakistan has acquired the capacity to enrich uranium to weapons grade level and that Pakistan has successfully tested the triggers obtained from the U.S.A. for a nuclear device.

(d) Government is concerned about the non-peaceful dimension of Pakistan's nuclear programme. A constant vigil is being maintained on all developments having a bearing on the country's security.

Indo-U.S.A. Bilateral Co-operation

1006. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreements were signed for bilateral co-operation between India and the United States of America during the Prime Minister's recent visit to the United States; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) During the Prime Minister's visit to the USA, the Governments of India and the USA signed an agreement extending the Science and Technology Initiative (STI) between the USA and India launched in October 1983 for a period of 2 years.

(b) On 12 June 1985, the Prime Minister and the President agreed to extend the Science and Technology Initiative between India and the USA for an additional period of 3 years beginning October 1985. The document was signed for the Government of India by the Minister of State for Science and Technology and for the US Government by the Science Adviser to the President. The STI covers areas of Health, Agriculture and Biomass Production, Monsoon Research and Material Research.

Indo-USSR Bilateral Co-operation

1007. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreements were signed for bilateral co-operation between India and the Soviet Union during the Prime Minister's recent visit to the Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The two agreements signed were as follows

(1) Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation: This Agreement provides for Soviet participation in industrial projects in the power, coal, oil exploration, ferrous metallurgy and machine building sectors. The USSR Government will extend a credit of up to Rouble 1000 million to cover the cost of equipment and services to be provided by them for these projects.

(2) Agreement on Main Directions of Economic Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation upto 2000 AD: This Agreement relates to long-term cooperation in leading sectors of industry, as well as in trade, and in science and technology. Broad possibilities in this regard have been indicated in the text.

Pollution at Ankleshwar

1008. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ankleshwar Industries Association has